



Children thrashing harvested maize in Leribe.  
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## 2018/19 DROUGHT

### Preparedness and Response Plan for Lesotho

#### Drought conditions in Lesotho

Lesotho is a semi-arid country whose main livelihood activities include subsistence farming and livestock rearing. Rural communities across the country are among the poorest, usually negatively affected by natural hazards, socioeconomic and demographic trends, low agricultural productivity and diminishing and increasingly degraded agricultural land. The country has not fully recovered from one of the recent El Niño weather phenomenon that resulted in a poor performance of the 2015/16 season that hit the country.

Now, farmers and agro-pastoralists across the country are facing drought conditions or the second time in three years. A countrywide multi-sectoral rapid assessment which was launched in February 2019 by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) and the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Committee (LVAC) predicts that 487 857 people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance due to delayed and below-average harvest.



Early drought response beneficiaries collecting inputs in Qacha's Nek.

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#### Key figures:

**407 191**

Affected people in rural areas (IPC 3 or higher)

**80 666**

Affected people in urban areas (IPC 3 or higher)

**487 857**

No. of people targeted for assistance by FAO

**42 953**

Affected people in rural areas (IPC 4)

**\$ 8.6 Million USD**

Funding gap (in USD)

**\$ 1.4 Million USD**

Amount mobilized for early action (CERF)

#### FAO Lesotho Objective:

To protect and restore agricultural production, incomes and assets while enhancing nutritious and diversified diets of the most vulnerable households in times of extreme drought conditions in Lesotho.

#### Output 1:



**Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods (crops and livestock)**

**FAO requires 5.3 Million USD**

**to assist 100 000 vulnerable smallholder farming households**



**Period: Immediate (Nov 2018-Feb 2019)  
Medium Term (Feb-Jul 2019)  
Long Term (Jul-Dec 2019)**

- Immediate procurement for vegetable seeds kit to support short term home/key hole garden technologies.
- Short term support in Improving access to agricultural inputs with special targeting of vulnerable households that will be left out by the subsidy programme- drought resistant varieties, with water sources)
- Promotion of climate-smart agriculture; (CA efficient water utilization)
- Cash Plus Social Protection programmes - complementarity with other programmes
- Crop pest and disease control

## Output 2: Provide support to Livestock (Feeds, water and animal health)

 **FAO requires USD 3.7 million**  for Protection of livelihoods and improved production for Livestock-dependent households.

 Target to reach **50 000** Vulnerable smallholder households

 **Period: Immediate (Nov 2018-Feb 2019)**  
Medium Term (Feb-Jul 2019)  
Long Term (Jul-Dec 2019)

- Water Access - Identification of perennial water sources, rehabilitation & construction of additional animal drinking points and protection of springs.
- Fodder production, salt licks for supplementary feeding, Range land rehabilitation
- Provision of drugs and vaccines



Livestock vaccinations carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture through FAO support.

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## Output 3: Enhance Information, coordination & analysis

 **FAO requires USD 1 million**

 for information management & Coordination

 **Period: Immediate (Nov 2018-Feb 2019)**  
Medium Term (Feb-Jul 2019)  
Long Term (Jul-Dec 2019)

- Update of the IPC and Multi-hazard Contingency plan
- Information, coordination & analysis – Coordination of Food security forum,
- Multi sector assessments
- Strengthen the Early warning system; mapping & analysis
- Clear Implementation and monitoring plan



Home garden vegetable kit beneficiary.

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### Contact

**Lewis Hove**  
Office in Charge  
FAO Lesotho Representation  
Lewis.Hove@fao.org

### David Mwesigwa

Emergency and Resilience Coordinator  
David.Mwesigwa@fao.org

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